ELLIS - PAHSIMEROI LAND USE DECISIONS AND RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

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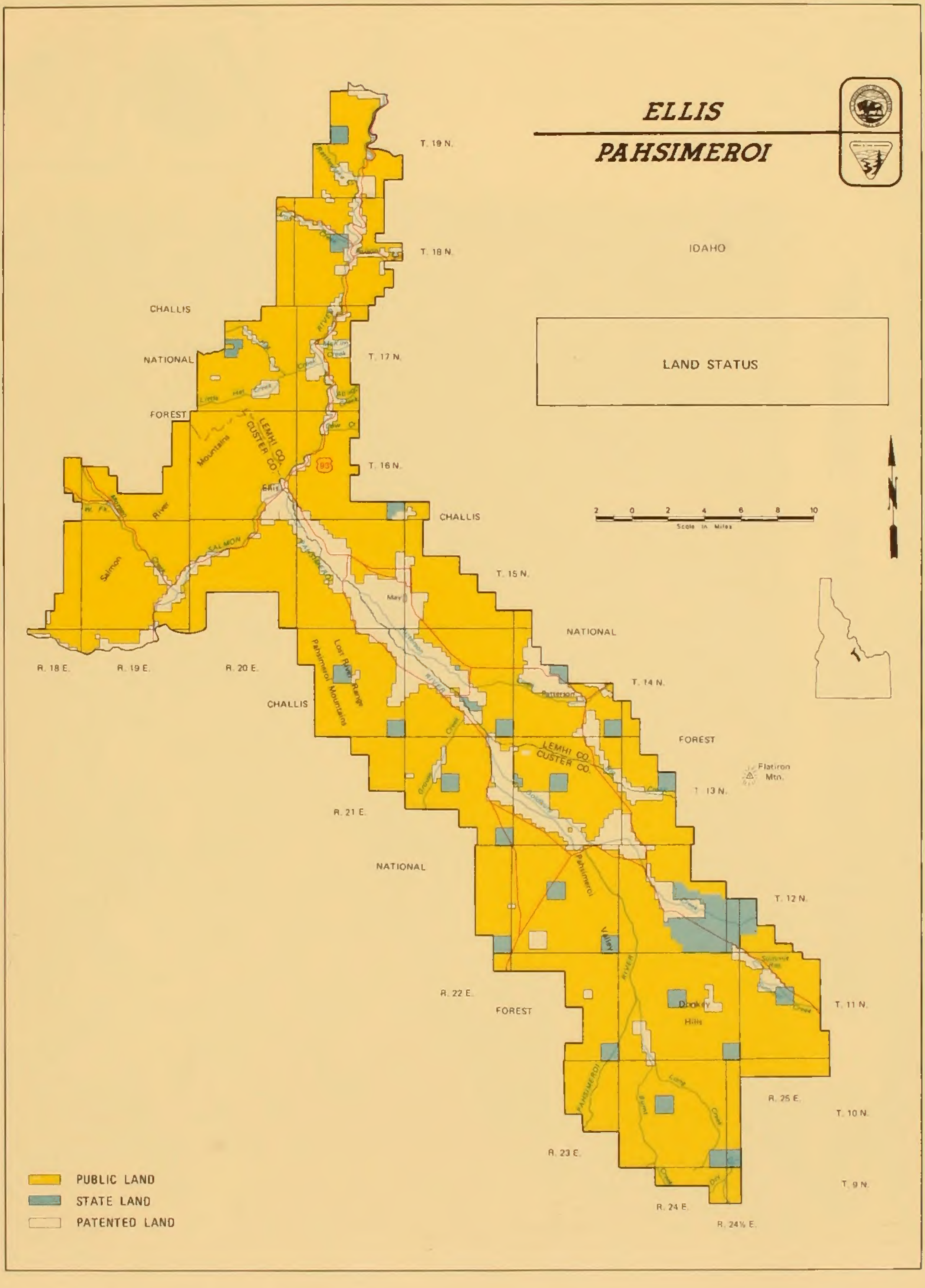

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LETTER FROM THE DISTRICT MANAGER

This brochure summarizes the land use decisions for the Ellis-Pahsmieroi Management Framework Plan (MFP) and Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Because of the large number and complexity of these decisions, it is not possible to present them in total. This document highlights the most significant decisions in each resource program and the Rangeland Program Summary and Record of Decision for the grazing EIS.

You may review the Ellis-Pahsimeroi plan, EIS and all related documents at the Salmon District Office. My staff and I are available to discuss the decisions and assist you with reviewing the documents. We expect to revise the Ellis-Pahsimeroi plan from time to time to meet the public needs and to cope with changing local and national conditions. Major revisions will be done with full public participation. The Rangeland Summary will be updated annually to keep the public informed of progress in the range program and future management decisions.

Our sincere appreciation is extended to everyone who assisted in this effort. The contributions made through public involvement have improved the quality of the plan and the decisions. We look forward to working with you again in the future.

Kenneth G. Walker
District Manager
Salmon District

September, 1982

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Ellis-Pahsimeroi Planning Unit is located in Lemhi and Custer Counties in central Idaho. It extends along the Salmon River from south of Salmon to north of Challis and includes the Pahsimeroi Valley and the headwaters of the northernmost sections of the Little Lost River Basin.

The Salmon BLM District administers 380,458 acres of public lands; 23,397 acres are administered by the State of Idaho; and 63,105 acres are in private ownership. The public lands are mainly concentrated on the foothills and plains above the private lands along the Salmon and Pahsimeroi Rivers. Adjacent mountainous areas are administered by the National Forest. State lands are scattered throughout the area.

Public lands are used primarily for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, watershed, recreation, forestry, and minerals activity. The major sources of income and employment in the vicinity are from mining, agriculture, and livestock production.

The Salmon River flows through a narrow "V" shaped valley flanked by cliffs, rock outcroppings, and moderately steep terrain. In contrast, the Pahsimeroi River winds its way through a broad flat "U" shaped valley flanked by mountains. Elevations range from 4,170 feet at the mouth of Lake Creek on the Salmon River to 9,555 feet on top of the Donkey Hills. The vegetation is mainly sagebrush/grass with cottonwood/willows along the stream bottoms and lodgepole/Douglas fir/aspen stands on the north and west facing slopes at higher elevations. Total annual precipitation varies from less than 8 inches at Ellis to more then 22 inches on top of the Donkey Hills. Maximum and minimum recorded temperatures range from 105° F. at Salmon to -39° F. at May.

Salmon River Canyon from King Mountain. Most of the public lands lie below timber.

MAJOR ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

Major issues and problems result from present and potential land use conflicts, the unavoidable environmental impacts of resource development, and social and economic impacts on local communities and lifestyles.

Issues and problems were identified through the BLM's planning and EIS process, both of which involved public participation. The following section on Significant Management Decisions describes these issues and problems for each resource.

SIGNIFICANT MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

The productive capability of the land itself coupled with public concerns for resource use and protection are key factors in BLM decision-making. Accordingly, geology, climate, soils, topography, wildlife, vegetation, and public concerns were major considerations in the Ellis-Pahsimeroi land use decisions.

LANDS PROGRAM

The Salmon District BLM has surface management of about 82 percent of the total Ellis-Pahsimeroi land area. Primary uses which are dealt with in the lands program are: (1) urban and suburban, (2) agricultural, (3) public purpose areas, (4) utility systems, and (5) communication sites. Casework involves processing Desert Land Entry applications, reviewing withdrawals, reviewing classifications, issuing rights-of-way, and processing agricultural trespass.

LANDS DECISIONS

LANDS IDENTIFIED AS SUITABLE FOR PUBLIC SALE, EXCHANGE OR AGRICULTURAL ENTRY WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR DISPOSAL.

> Disposing of isolated portions of land provides better comprehensive management. This also provides for agricultural expansion without major conflicts with other resources.

Land and realty actions include processing agricultural trespass cases.

UTILITY AND TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, RIGHTS–OF–WAY, COMMUNICATION SITES, DITCH AND PIPELINE RIGHTS–OF–WAY WILL BE CONSIDERED.

The need for rights-of-way and communication sites is increasing as the population increases in the area. Allowing appropriate rights-of-way will help provide for orderly growth.

TRESPASS STRUCTURES AND UNAUTHORIZED DUMPSITES ON PUBLIC LANDS WILL BE REMOVED.

Removal of trespass structures and unauthorized dumpsites will improve visual quality and reduce health hazards on public lands.

MINERALS PROGRAM

The Ellis-Pahsimeroi Planning Unit is believed to be on the western edge of the Overthrust Belt and has potential for oil, gas and geothermal energy production. Almost the entire area is under lease for oil and gas exploration. Some exploration has occurred but there has been no drilling or production.

Numerous mining claims are found throughout the area for heavy metals such as silver, lead, hematite, barite, tungsten and molybdenum. Also, many material site permits have been issued to the Idaho Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, and Custer and Lemhi Counties throughout the area.

Material sites are needed for maintenance and construction of roads by local and state highway departments.

MINERALS DECISIONS

PUBLIC LANDS WILL BE OPEN TO MINERAL ENTRY UNDER THE 1872 MINING LAW EXCEPT ON RECREATION SITES WHICH ARE ALREADY WITHDRAWN.

> The BLM has little discretion involving mineral entry under the 1872 Mining Law, but provisions for protecting other resource values can be made. The recreation sites have improvements which are of high dollar value to the public.

THE ENTIRE AREA WILL BE LEFT OPEN FOR MINERAL LEASING (OIL, GAS AND GEOTHERMAL).

> Stipulations on surface occupancy and restricted time will be used to protect appropriate resource values.

COMMUNITY PITS AND/OR INDIVIDUAL MATERIAL SITES WILL BE IDENTIFIED THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING UNIT.

> The needs of local and state governments for materials have increased the past several years. This decision will help meet those needs.

FORESTRY PROGRAM

Timbered areas in this planning unit are found in the upper foothills and in the main drainage of contributory creeks to the Salmon and Pahsimeroi Rivers. Douglas fir is the main species, with lodgepole pine being the dominant associated species. Approximately 12,500 acres of timber land are classified as productive.

Timber on public lands in the Pahsimeroi Valley has had little commercial harvest. The Cabin-Ringle, Ezra and Morgan Creek areas have been cut over within the last fifteen years. About 6,300 MBF of timber were removed during six separate timber sale contracts. With the exception of Cabin Creek, timber sales were harvested by individual tree select cut methods. The clear-cut in the Cabin Creek drainage was designed to control an advanced stage of mistletoe infestation. Most of the Douglas fir stands are affected by dwarf mistletoe.

FOREST PRODUCTS DECISION

PRODUCTIVE FOREST LANDS WILL BE INTENSIVELY MANAGED FOR TIMBER PRODUCTION ON A SUSTAINED YIELD BASIS TO PROVIDE FOR MAXIMUM VOLUME BASED ON ALLOWABLE CUT PROCEDURES. AN AVERAGE OF 500 MBF OF TIMBER WILL BE HARVESTED PER YEAR.

> The ten-year cut is designed to bring dwarf mistletoe to manageable levels. Close coordination will take place during the layout of timber sales between the forester and wildlife biologist. Timber harvest practices will follow the Idaho Forest Protection Act.

Approximately 12,500 acres of timber lands are classified as productive. An average of 500 MBF of timber will be harvested each year.

WATERSHED PROGRAM

Soil types in the area vary greatly depending on the dominant geologic parent materials. Glacial, fluvial and alluvial deposits occur on the bottom of all the major stream valleys. Four major soil groupings have been identified which result from combining 52 soil mapping units.

Existing water quality is generally excellent. The Salmon and Pahsimeroi Rivers and their tributaries are designated as "Special Resource Waters" by the State of Idaho. Primary uses of the surface waters are domestic water supply, agricultural water supply, cold water fisheries habitat and recreation.

Major nonpoint pollution sources are natural geomorphic and man-caused. The man-caused problems usually result from land-based activities which alter the natural hydrolic processes of the land surface and accelerate the effects of weathering and erosion.

Gullying is a problem in the area. Watershed work will be centered around protecting and restoring watershed values.

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Wildlife habitat is highly valued in the area. Bighorn sheep are but one of many big game species for which special management is provided.

The Ellis-Pahsimeroi Unit provides habitat for approximately 62 species of mammals, 198 species of birds, and 15 species of reptiles and amphibians. This includes year-round habitat for antelope, bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer. Other big game species include bear and cougar. Upland game birds include chukar, sage grouse, Hungarian partridge, blue grouse, spruce grouse, ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant and mourning doves.

Sightings of threatened or endangered species include bald eagles and American peregrine falcons. State of Idaho sensitive species which inhabit the area are bobcat and long-billed curlew.

Approximately 200 miles of stream flow through the Ellis-Pahsimeroi Unit. Several streams contain anadromous and resident species while others contain only resident species. Anadromous species include steelhead trout and chinook salmon.

WILDLIFE DECISIONS

FORAGE WILL BE ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT THE PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED 1985 POPULATION LEVELS FOR MULE DEER, ANTELOPE, ELK, AND BIGHORN SHEEP.

> This allocation will allow sufficient forage for existing population levels of big game animals and for moderate future increases of some species. Coordination with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will continue and will include U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, and private landowners as appropriate.

DIVERSE, HIGH QUALITY HABITATS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR A MAXIMUM DIVERSITY OF ALL WILDLIFE SPECIES BY: (1) PROVIDING WATER FOR WILDLIFE BETWEEN JUNE 15 AND OCTOBER 1 AT RANGE WATER DEVELOPMENTS; (2) DEVELOPING SMALL WET MEADOWS AT WATER DEVELOPMENTS; (3) PROTECTING RIPARIAN AREAS FROM EXCESSIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL; (4) CONDUCTING VEGETATION MANIPULATIONS TO ENHANCE WILDLIFE HABITAT; AND (5) KEEPING FENCE CONSTRUCTION TO A MINIMUM.

> In the arid and semi-arid areas of the Ellis-Pahsimeroi, water is a critical factor for all wildlife. Developed waterers have opened new areas to habitat expansion, but problems have developed when these waterers are turned off based on livestock use periods. Stable water sources during critical periods will stabilize populations dependent upon those sources.

The Morgan Creek Bighorn Sheep Management Area was set aside in 1969. Habitat management is closely coordinated with other affected agencies.

RECREATION PROGRAM

The public lands in the Ellis-Pahsimeroi area are important for a variety of recreational activities including float boating, fishing, hunting, rockhounding, off-road vehicle use and camping.

Recreationists come to the Salmon area from all over the nation. They are mainly river or wilderness oriented and come to Salmon to float the "River of No Return," hike into the wilderness areas, or fish for steelhead trout. Visitor use occurs year-round but peaks during the summer months.

Two wilderness study areas have been identified in the Ellis-Pahsimeroi area, WSA 45–1 (Goldburg) and WSA 45–12 (Burnt Creek). Both are adjacent to Forest Service RARE II lands.

The Double Springs cultural site has been nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Salmon River provides excellent recreational opportunities such as float boating, sight-seeing and steelhead fishing.

The Morgan Creek recreation site is only one of several sites developed for public recreation in the area.

RECREATION DECISIONS

EXISTING AND PROPOSED RECREATION SITES IN THE ELLIS–PAHSIMEROI WILL BE DEVELOPED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING LEVELS:

1. MAJOR DEVELOPED SITES – SPRING GULCH, McKIM CREEK;
2. DEVELOPED SITES – MIKE ELLIS BRIDGE, RATTLESNAKE, MORGAN CREEK, SUMMIT CREEK/BARNEY HOT SPRINGS;
3. REST AREAS/RIVER ACCESS POINTS – CRONKS CANYON, CAMP CREEK;
4. ACCESS RETENTION – LITTLE MORGAN CREEK, ELLIS, McNABB POINT, WITHINGTON CREEK, RATTLESNAKE CREEK, BRINEY CREEK.

These sites are needed to support and manage recreation use in the area. The highway along the Salmon River is used as a main travel route for persons heading for Salmon River white water trips and is a gateway to the "River of No Return" wilderness. Average daily traffic counts increased 53 percent from 1970 to 1980.

THE ENTIRE AREA WILL BE OPEN TO UNRESTRICTED OFF–ROAD VEHICLE USE ON OR WITHIN A ONE–MILE BUFFER ZONE OF: CRITICAL BIG GAME WINTER RANGE BETWEEN NOVEMBER 15 AMD APRIL 15; ANTELOPE FAWNING AREAS BETWEEN MAY 15 AND JUNE 15; AND SAGE GROUSE STRUTTING AND NESTING AREAS BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND JUNE 15.

> Stress can increase mortality and decrease the probability of successful reproduction of wildlife. Existing ORV use is low and is not a detrimental factor for the most part. Use must be regularly monitored to avoid allowing damage to other resources.

ALL PUBLIC LANDS WILL BE MANAGED TO PROTECT, MAINTAIN, ENHANCE, AND REHABILITATE VISUAL RESOURCES. VRM CLASSES WILL BE DESIGNATED IN THE ELLIS–PAHSIMEROI AS FOLLOWS:

CLASS	ACREAGE
I*	91,641
II	54,495
III	288,257
IV	184,128
V	80

*TEMPORARY DESIGNATION UNTIL STUDIES ARE COMPLETE.

> Visual resource values have been recognized as an important element of the human environment. Care will be given to minimize visual intrusions to the extent practical.

RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

This section summarizes the rangeland management decisions for the Ellis-Pahsimeroi Planning Unit based on multiple use planning and the grazing environmental impact statement (EIS). This summary conforms with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 4160.1–1(a), Grazing Administration and Trespass on Public Lands and meets the record of decision requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

BACKGROUND

The Ellis-Pahsimeroi Planning Unit contains 33 grazing allotments used by 44 livestock permittees. Animal Unit Months

Cattle will be permitted to graze in all 33 allotments in the Ellis-Pahsimeroi area.

(AUMs) of use are: 87 percent cattle (24,265 AUMs); 11 percent sheep (3,139 AUMs); and 2 percent horses (575 AUMs). Seven allotments are grazed by both sheep and cattle. All other allotments are grazed by cattle only. Horse use is scattered through eleven allotments. Active grazing preference is 27,979 AUMs with a five-year average use of 26,525 AUMs.

Rangeland condition is 2 percent excellent, 35 percent good, 35 percent fair, and 18 percent poor. Vegetation types are 90 percent sagebrush/grassland, five percent woodland, four percent rock and talus, and one percent seeded. Estimated trend is 74 percent upward and 26 percent downward.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Many formal and informal contacts were made during the planning process, and many constructive comments were received. Information and concerns which were identified by the public were included in the draft grazing EIS released in January, 1982. Significant additional public comments were received on that draft EIS which led to several changes in the final EIS released in June, 1982. The BLM will continue to seek out public concerns as decisions are implemented or for any major changes in decisions.

Consultation and coordination with affected parties has been an integral part of this decision-making effort and will be continued through issuance of final decisions and implementation. Public comments on this Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) will be accepted until December 1, 1982, and may be made either in writing or in person. From December 1, 1982 until September 30, 1983, proposed decisions will be issued on an individual allotment basis. During that time, if any needs for major changes are identified through public comment or through subsequent consultation and coordination, an updated RPS will be prepared.

Sheep graze in seven of the allotments in the Ellis-Pahsimeroi area.

The burros in the Morgan Creek Allotment will be removed from the area.

Anyone who is adversely affected by a proposed decision may protest that decision in person or in writing to the Authorized Officer within 15 days after receipt of the proposed decision. In the absence of a protest, the proposed decision shall become the final decision of the Authorized Officer without further notice.

Upon receipt of a timely protest, the Authorized Officer shall reconsider the proposed decision in light of the protestant's statement of reasons for protest and in light of other information pertinent to the case. At the conclusion of the protest review, a final decision will be issued. A period of 30 days after receipt of the final decision is provided for filing an appeal (Reference 43 CFR Support 4160.1–2; 4160.2; and 4160.3).

SUMMARY OF EIS AND DECISIONS

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

When the draft EIS was printed, the Proposed Action was the "Preferred Alternative." However, after consideration of the environmental impacts, costs, benefits and public comment, Alternative 4 was selected as the "Preferred Alternative" in the final EIS because it was environmentally, socially and economically preferable. This alternative received heavy public support during the EIS process. It allocates forage based on condition and trend data. The inventory is used as a baseline when condition and trend indicate there is a need for adjustments. This inventory will be supported by the results of monitoring studies and consultation, coordination and cooperation with range users and other affected parties before making final forage allocation.

The initial stocking rate of 27,435 livestock AUMs was adjusted to 27,575 AUMs. The 140 AUM difference involved sheep use on a steep allotment in the Salmon River Canyon. Vegetative manipulations and range improvements will be concentrated where the potential economic return is the greatest.

Improvements will be implemented on the eleven allotments identified for intensive management within five years. Approximately nine other allotments will have improvements implemented within 20 years.

Vegetation production is expected to increase 10 percent which will result in wildlife production increases sufficient to meet the objectives requested by the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Watershed conditions will improve on 42 percent of the area. Some increased trampling of cultural resources will result. Aquatic wildlife habitat will improve with fencing of Burnt Creek. Economic and social conditions will improve in the long term.

EIS PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action was to allocate 26,689 AUMs for active use by livestock. Wildlife would be allocated 2,751 AUMs. Proposed range improvements included 85 miles of pipeline, 89 troughs, 20 reservoirs, 9 miles of fence, 10,820 acres of vegetation manipulation, and 2,460 acres of vegetative manipulation maintenance. Grazing systems were proposed on 25 of the 33 allotments within a five-year time frame.

Watershed conditions would improve on 42 percent of the area. Cultural resources would experience increased trampling, while visual resources would not be significantly affected. Forage production would increase by 22 percent. Although negatively impacted initially, the economic and social conditions would have improved over the current situation at the end of 20 years. Wildlife populations would increase an average of 42 percent over the current situation.

ALTERNATIVE 1

Alternative 1 was to continue the present rangeland management program. Livestock forage allocation would remain at 27,979 AUMs. The implementation of new grazing systems and range improvement projects would result in a 3 percent expected forage increase over the long term. This would make 28,818 AUMs available for livestock and would lead to an average increase in big game populations of 21 percent over current numbers. Watershed conditions would improve on 42 percent of the area with 58 percent remaining static. Aquatic wildlife and recreationists would benefit, but to a lesser extent than under the Proposed Action. Cultural resources would continue to receive pressure from grazing, and visual resources would not be significantly impacted. No change would occur to the economic or social conditions in the area.

ALTERNATIVE 2

Alternative 2 is very similar to the Proposed Action except that implementation would occur over 20 years rather than over five years. Livestock allocations would not change. However, a 14 percent increase in forage production would allow for a corresponding increase in livestock AUMs and the same big game population increase as under Alternative 1.

Watershed condition, cultural resources, range improvements, visual resources, and recreation would be affected the same as in the Proposed Action. Big game populations and aquatic wildlife would incur benefits the same as under Alternative 1. No change would occur initially in the economic conditions of the ranchers. However, over the long term, rancher income would increase resulting in the same net gain as the five-year Proposed Action. Since long-term economic gains would occur without grazing reductions, social well-being would be better than under the Proposed Action.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Alternative 3, no livestock grazing, is a requirement of NEPA. Without livestock grazing, a long-term 45–90 percent increase in production would result. Wildlife populations would respond by increasing an average of 43 percent and watershed conditions would improve on 80 percent of the area with no change on 20 percent of the area. Aquatic wildlife would have the greatest benefits under this alternative. The effects of livestock trampling on cultural resources would cease along with any related visual impacts. Recreation opportunities would be greatest under this alternative. Economic and social conditions would be drastically affected.

ALTERNATIVE 4

Alternative 4 has been selected as the Preferred Alternative and is described in the first section of this EIS Summary.

ALTERNATIVE 5

Alternative 5 reduces the initial livestock allocation to 22,778 AUMs (19 percent less than current active preference). Wildlife would be allocated 2,751 AUMs. After 20 years the expected production increase would be 26 percent. The same number of range improvements would be implemented as in the Proposed Action. Big game populations and aquatic wildlife would be affected the same as in the Proposed Action. Watershed conditions would improve on 43 percent of the area with 57 percent remaining static. Cultural resources, visual resources and recreation would be affected the same as in the Proposed Action. Initial economic status and social well-being would be more negatively affected by this alternative than by any others except Alternative 3. Long-term conditions would improve, but not as much as under Alternatives 2 and 4.

RANGELAND DECISIONS

THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF ALTERNATIVE 4 WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

The impacts of all elements in the decision were analyzed and documented in the draft and final Ellis-Pahsimeroi Grazing EISs. Alternative 4 was chosen over the original Proposed Action because of public comment, and because it was more economically and environmentally acceptable. This Preferred Alternative provides a desirable balance between resource improvements, resource use, and economic and social conditions.

27,575 AUMs WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR ACTIVE GRAZING BY LIVESTOCK AS DEPICTED ON TABLE 1.

Vegetation will be allocated to livestock and wildlife. Unallocated vegetation is available for watershed protection, aesthetics and other nonconsumptive uses. The initial allocation is based on: the range survey conducted in 1979; consultation, coordination and cooperation; and examination of existing condition and trend with reservations as needed for other values such as wildlife and watershed.

GRAZING SYSTEMS WILL BE DEVELOPED FOR THE ALLOTMENTS SHOWN ON TABLE 1.

The allotments are divided into three general categories:

1. Those where management potential is limited due to size and topography and where limited economic or resource returns would be realized by implementing intensive mangement.
2. Those that are currently under allotment management plans (AMPs) or where present management is generally adequate to meet the needs of the soil and vegetative resources.
3. Those that have the potential to respond with an economic return and/or significant range improvement through intensive management.

Actual grazing systems may vary depending on coordinated planning with the operators and other appropriate entities.

NO PORTION OF THE MORGAN CREEK ALLOTMENT WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A WILD BURRO MANAGEMENT AREA. ALL EXISTING BURROS WILL BE REMOVED.

When the Wild Horse and Burro Act (PL 92–195) was passed, only four jennies existed in the Morgan Creek Allotment. This was not a viable herd as defined in PL 92–195. In the summer of 1972, a jack was released in the area which began the present burro herd.

MONITORING

Studies and evaluations will follow implementation of each grazing system to see if specific objectives are being met. These studies typically include compiling actual use, range trend, range/watershed condition, utilization, weather data, carrying capacity, and wildlife habitat monitoring. Where specific objectives are not being met, adjustments will be made. All practical means have been adopted to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the Preferred Alternative.

ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

LANDS

Social and economic factors are most often affected by lands decisions. Environmental impacts are usually minor.

MINERALS

Most of the Ellis-Pahsimeroi Unit is open to mineral entry under the General Mining Law. Little mineral activity is presently occurring which would impact the environment to any degree. Potential oil, gas and geothermal development could impact the environment. Potential also exists for other mineral activity to develop which could impact the environment.

FORESTRY

Most forestry activity is designed to clean up mistletoe-infested stands. Some short-term impacts will occur, but long-term results will provide for more vigorous tree stands which will benefit wildlife and visual quality.

WATERSHED

Environmentally acceptable management practices, mainly the implementation of grazing systems, will improve watershed conditions by correcting the imbalances of past use. Expected benefits are decreased soil erosion and improved vegetative cover.

WILDLIFE

Forage allocation to wildlife is sufficient to support present and projected numbers. The proposed wildlife activities would have very minimal environmental impacts.

RECREATION

Minimal impacts are expected from recreation management decisions. Decisions generally favor environmental protection and present management. The control of surface-disturbing activities will preserve historic values and the careful location of developments will help maintain visual quality.

RANGE

Livestock forage decisions will maintain or improve vegetation. Improved range condition and forage production will benefit all activities that depend on a sustained yield of quality rangeland vegetation. Maintaining a vigorous and healthy vegetative cover is a sound base for multiple use management of this resource.

TABLE 1

ALLOTMENT SUMMARY

Allotment	Acres Public Land	Initial Livestock Stocking Rate (AUMs)	Grazing System	Kind of Livestock
Camp Creek	3,141	201	Seasonal	Cattle, Horses
Second Creek	2,464	152	Seasonal	Cattle
Lime Creek	2,380	112	Seasonal	Cattle
Iron Creek	10,869	1,202	Rest Rotation	Cattle, Horses, Sheep
Poison Creek	4,740	507	Seasonal	Cattle, Sheep
Cabin Creek	15,668	1,045	Rest Rotation	Cattle, Horses
Findley Basin	597	44	Seasonal	Cattle
Allison Creek	11,587	403	Seasonal	Cattle, Horses
Hat Creek	19,214	1,366	Rest Rotation	Cattle
Morgan Creek	47,470	2,710[2]	Rest Rotation	Cattle, Horses
Lawson Creek	23,358	1,394	Rest Rotation	Cattle
Little Morgan Creek	5,816	350	Deferred	Cattle
Highway	1,389	75	Seasonal	Cattle, Horses
Trail Creek	5,327	277	Seasonal	Cattle
Spud Creek	5,662	227	Rest Rotation[3]	Cattle
Falls Creek	13,485	545	Deferred	Cattle, Horses
Hamilton Seeding	321	60	Deferred	Cattle
Mahogany Creek	1,317	59	Seasonal	Cattle
Patterson Creek	1,730	120	Seasonal	Cattle
Grouse Creek	35,564	2,218	Seasonal	Cattle, Sheep
Meadow Creek	2,809	240	Seasonal	Cattle
County Line	9,751	496	Rest Rotation[3]	Cattle
Mill Creek	3,308	155	Rest Rotation[3]	Cattle, Horses
Big Creek	3,752	350	Rest Rotation	Cattle, Horses
Lower Goldburg	4,960	196	Rest Rotation[4]	Cattle
Bear Creek	11,111	1,301	Rest Rotation	Cattle, Sheep
Pines-Elkhorn	19,787	1,840	Rest Rotation	Cattle, Horses, Sheep
Goldburg-Upper Pahsimeroi	45,143	3,583	Rest Rotation[4]	Cattle, Sheep
Donkey Hills	17,442	1,328	Seasonal	Cattle
Rock Creek	1,470	162	Deferred	Cattle
Burnt Creek	4,884	858	Deferred	Cattle, Horses, Sheep
Dry Creek	14,565	2,024	Rest Rotation[3]	Cattle
Summit Creek	21,225	1,975	Rest Rotation	Cattle
TOTAL	372,306[1]	27,575		

1/ Difference between Allotment total and Area total is due to acreage administered by Idaho Falls District Forest Service, wildlife areas and unlicensed areas

2/ Increase subject to coordination with Challis Forest

3/ May be combined in one AMP

4/ May be combined in one AMP

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Public review was very important in preparing the Ellis-Pahsimeroi Grazing EIS and Management Framework Plan. Throughout the planning process, numerous Federal, State and local agencies as well as members of the general public offered suggestions to improve the plan. The Pahsimeroi Resource Area staff contacted representatives of these groups to ensure that planning efforts and management decisions did not conflict with the land use plans of other agencies. Many significant comments were submitted, and the Area Manager incorporated a substantial number of those comments in refining and reviewing the plan.

The Ellis-Pahsimeroi plan was coordinated with several specific planning efforts. County officials were consulted during plan development. Land use decisions conform with the land use and zoning requirements of Custer and Lemhi Counties.

The BLM rangeland management policy includes a goal to increase and encourage systematic cooperation, consultation, and coordination with rangeland users and owners of lands intermingled with the public lands. This policy is an integral part of the land use and grazing management decision-making process.

The BLM used information gained from range users in the planning and EIS process for developing and refining the proposed decisions. On one allotment, allocated AUMs are 140 AUMs higher than shown in the grazing EIS. This increase is a result of settling a transfer of grazing privileges.

Consultation and coordination with the Salmon and Challis National Forests will be used to coordinate allotment management plans (AMPs) as grazing decisions are further refined. During the development of AMPs, the range users will be directly involved as well as other appropriate entities such as the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Idaho Fish and Game Department, and other agencies.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

This plan will be implemented through on-the-ground actions. Some decisions will require more detailed planning before implementation.

Development projects are subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. An environmental assessment will be prepared for each specific action. If the impacts are unacceptable, the proposal may be modified or rejected.

Management decisions will be used in programming and budgeting for the annual work plan. Because on-the-ground actions depend on funding by Congress, it may be some time before some decisions can be implemented.

In response to changing resource conditions and management requirements, the plan and the decisions will be updated and revised as new information becomes available. The public will have opportunities to participate in the planning process when major revisions are made.

GLOSSARY

Allotment Management Plan – A detailed plan for intensively managing and improving a specific grazing allotment.

Animal Unit Month (AUM) – The amount of forage needed to sustain the equivalent of 1 cow, 5 sheep, 4 deer, or 5.3 antelope for one month. An AUM is equal to 800 pounds of forage.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A document that analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action and several alternatives.

Grazing Preference – The maximum number of AUMs that can be grazed on public lands. The grazing preference is attached to private lands owned or controlled by the permittee or lessee.

Grazing Systems – Method used to vary the livestock use an allotment receives.

> Deferred Rotation – The withholding of livestock grazing from an area until a certain stage of plant growth is reached.
>
> Rest Rotation – The rotation of livestock use from one pasture of an allotment to another on a seasonal and/or yearly basis. By doing so, one or more of the pastures receives use during the year.
>
> Seasonal – Livestock use that occurs repeatedly in the same area during the same season of the year.

Management Framework Plan (MFP) – The MFP is the BLM's land use plan. MFP Step 1 consists of sets of recommendations designed to maximize a single resource. MFP Step 2 considers conflicts in use and social, economic and environmental impacts in sets of recommendations by resource for overall multiple use management. MFP Step 3, which considers all comments and experience gained through the EIS process, includes land use decisions for future multiple use management.

Planning Unit – A portion of a resource area for which inventories and land use plans are developed.

Riparian – Pertaining to or situated on the banks of a river or other body of water. Riparian vegetation is the vegetation found along a river or other body of water.

Section 3 Leases – A Section 3 lease refers to grazing administration on public lands under Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act for lands that were originally within grazing districts.

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